

**Candidate Name: Yuriy Gusev**

City: Verona

State: WI

Zip: 53593

Years of Membership in the ABSF: 7

Occupation: Executive Director

**Please respond to the following question (feel free to use additional space).**

Why are you interested in being a member of the ABSF Board of Directors and what knowledge and skills do you possess that can benefit the organization?

As a passionate cross country skier, I've dedicated my own career to fostering opportunities for youth and adults alike to enjoy the same feelings that I do being outdoors and skiing. I became captivated with the American Birkebeiner since I first competed in 2002.

Today, as executive director of the Central Cross Country Ski Association, I have found our partnership with the American Birkebeiner to be extremely fruitful in jointly promoting the healthful aspects of outdoor activity. I take great pride in my role as a director of the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation.

As a Birkie board member, I have done everything from assisting with on-course feeds to providing live streaming of the race around the world. As the leader of CXC, I have worked with the Birkie on projects ranging from youth camps to Paralympic World Championships, U.S. Junior Championships and the remarkable Nordic Rocks program that is introducing thousands of kids to the sport.

The vision of Tony Wise was to use the Birkie as a platform to grow the sport and to make the Midwest its epicenter. That was some of my motivation in focusing my energy in helping to build CXC and to partner with organizations like the Birkie.

As the leader of CXC, I see it as my role to be as engaged in the sport as possible. The Birkie foundation board is central to that, in addition to my role on the National Nordic Foundation board and as a member of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Cross Country Sport Committee.

My engagement in the governance of the sport in America, along with my skills as a cross country athlete, coach, official and organization leader help me play a significant role with the Birkie foundation board.

It would be a great honor for me to serve another term as a director of the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation board.